ANDA 75-263 November 8, 1999

Astra Pharmaceuticals, L.P.
Attention: Lisa DeLuca, Ph.D.
725 Chesterbrook Blvd.
Wayne, PA 19087-5677

Dear Madam:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application dated December 1, 1997, submitted pursuant to Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (Act), for Midazolam Hydrochloride Injection, 5 mg (base)/mL [packaged in 2 mL syringes].

Reference is also made to your amendments dated July 6, 1998; and February 18, May 28, August 3, September 29, October 12, October 26 and November 5, 1999.

We have completed the review of this abbreviated application and have concluded that based upon the information you have presented to date, the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. Therefore, the application is **tentatively approved**. This determination is based upon information available to the Agency at this time, (i.e., data in your application and the status of current good manufacturing practices (CGMP) of the facilities used in the manufacture and testing of the drug product), and is subject to change on the basis of new information that may come to our attention. Your application cites Versed Injection of Hoffmann LaRoche, Inc. (Roche) as the reference listed drug product (RLD) upon which you have based your application. Versed Injection of Roche is subject to a period of patent protection. As noted in the agency's publication entitled "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations", patent protection (U.S. Patent No. 4,280,957) was to have expired on December 20, 1999. However, this period has been extended under Section 111 of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act (FDAMA) [(21 U.S.C. 355a (1997)] by an additional period of 6 months of market exclusivity. Therefore, final approval of your application may not be made effective pursuant to

21 U.S.C. 355(j)(4)(B)(ii) of the Act until that additional period has expired, i.e., June 20, 2000.

Because the agency is granting a tentative approval to this application, please submit an amendment at least 60 days (but not more than 90 days) prior to the date your believe your application will be eligible for final approval. This amendment should identify changes, if any, in the conditions under which the product was tentatively approved, and should include updated information such as final-printed labeling, chemistry, manufacturing, and/or controls data as appropriate. An amendment should be submitted even if none of these changes were made. This amendment should be designated clearly in your cover letter as a MINOR AMENDMENT. In addition to this amendment, the Agency may request at any time prior to the final date of approval that you submit an additional amendment containing the information described above.

Failure to submit either, or if requested both amendments may result in rescission of the tentative approval status of your application, may result in a delay in the issuance of the final approval letter.

Any significant changes in the conditions outlined in this abbreviated application, as well as changes in the status of the manufacturing and testing facilities' compliance with current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs) are subject to agency review before final approval of the application will be made.

The drug product that is the subject of this abbreviated application may not be marketed without final agency approval under Section 505 of the Act. The introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of this drug product before the final approval date is prohibited under Section 501 of the Act. Also, until the agency issues the final approval letter, your drug product will not be deemed approved for marketing under 21 U.S.C. 355 and will not be listed in the "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations" list, (the "Orange Book"), published by the Agency. Should you believe that there are grounds for issuing the final approval letter prior to June 20, 2000, you should amend your application accordingly.

At the time you submit any amendments, please contact Kassandra Sherrod, Project Manager, at (301) 827**B**5849, for further instructions.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas L. Sporn
Director
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research